

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/977,202

Examiner

Pramila Parthasarathy

Applicant(s)

CHARBONNEAU, MARC

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination filed on 12/4/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10;12;15-23; Renumbered as 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

[Signature]
2,16,07

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.
2. Applicant's submission filed on December 04, 2006 has been entered and made of record.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1 – 37 have been fully considered and in view of Applicant's agreement with Examiner's proposed amendments to Claims 1 – 10, 12, 15 – 23 along with canceling Claims 11, 13, 14 and 24 – 37 are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1 – 10, 12, 15 – 23 are allowed and renumbered as 1 – 20.

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5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Admitted prior art [Bellemore et al. U.S. Patent 5,944,825 in view of Novoa et al. U.S. Patent 6,636,973], disclose "A method for providing security and password mechanisms in a data base systems that limits access to the database to clients who transmit a valid password and user ID combination. Furthermore, the method requires that passwords are changed periodically and ensures that passwords meet certain criteria" and "A server computer that dynamically changes a user's password each time the user logs on to the computer network and the server computer includes a users databases that contains a password along with a biometric template value associated with each user registered to access the computer network".

However, the admitted prior arts taken independently or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest "providing data indicative of the new password from the independent database to the password database for changing the password in the password database to the new password".

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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7. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael P. Dunnam, registration number 32,611, on February 12, 2007.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method of securely supporting password change comprising:
 - detecting an occurrence of a password change operation in execution on a system having a password database that stores passwords resulting from a the password change operation;
 - detecting a new password when provided;
 - storing data indicative of the new password in an independent database other than the password database for later retrieval; and
 - providing data indicative of the new password from the independent database to the password database for changing the password in the password database to the new password.

5. (Amended) A method of securely supporting password change comprising:
 - detecting a change password operation in execution on a system for changing an old password, the system having a password database that stores said old password;
 - displaying to a user a prompt for a new password, in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation;
 - receiving the new password;
 - storing the new password in an independent database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the new password is stored by the change password operation; and

providing the new password from the independent database to the password database for changing the old password in the password database to the new password.

7. (Amended) A method of securely supporting password change comprising:

detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a password database that stores passwords resulting from a the password change operation;

displaying to user a prompt for authentication information in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation;

receiving the authentication information;

when the authentication information is indicative of a known user, performing an operation to change a password of the known user to a new password in the system automatically, and;

storing the new password in an independent database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the changed password is stored by the change password operation; and

when the authentication information is indicative of a known user, providing the new password for the known user from the independent database to the password database.

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11. (Canceled)

12. (Amended) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 7 comprising the further step of prompting the user to select between provision of the new password and automatic generation of the new password.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Amended) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 12 wherein the automatically generated new password is unknown to the user.

20. (Amended) A method of securely supporting password change comprising:
detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a known user authorized thereon;

automatically generating a new password in response to detecting the password change operation and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation and storing the new password in an independent database other than a password database where the new password is stored; and

performing an operation to change the password in the system automatically by providing the new password from the independent database to the password database.

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24 - 37. (Canceled)


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pramila Parthasarathy whose telephone number is 571-272-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a.m. To 5:00p.m.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami can be reached on 571-232-4195. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pramila Parthasarathy
February 14, 2007.

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2,16,07